DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6449253 B1
TITLE: Method and system for dynamic allocation of bandwidth in asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) switching systems

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Brief Summary Text (3):
In an ATM network, a virtual source (VS) transmits data in the form of fixed sized cells to a virtual destination (VD) through a connection (referred to as virtual circuit) established between the virtual source and the virtual destination. The virtual source and virtual destination may be a telephone, video equipment, facsimile, computer, edge-router, edge-switch, etc. The cells may include any type of digitized information, including audio, computer data, video, multimedia, Internet data, etc. For example, in a network that uses Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) over ATM, a virtual source may be an edge-router at the entry to an ATM network. An entry edge-router segments the incoming TCP/IP data packets into one or more ATM cells before transmitting each cell to the ATM network. Similarly, a virtual destination may be an edge router at the exit of the ATM network. An exit edge-router reassembles incoming ATM cells into TCP/IP data packets before transmitting each packet to its destination.